

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A splitter device, comprising:
a first rotatable shaft extending axially through a first cutting blade;
a second rotatable shaft disposed substantially parallel to the first rotatable shaft; and
a second cutting blade having the second rotatable shaft extending axially therethrough,
the second cutting blade being axially movable relative to the second rotatable shaft such that the
second cutting blade can be adjusted to maintain a cutting position adjacent to the first cutting
blade and in a fixed spaced relation from the first cutting blade so as to compensate for blade
wear[.];

a collar having the second rotatable shaft extending axially therethrough, the collar being
configured to be capable of fixedly engaging the second rotatable shaft so as to axially fix the
second cutting blade with respect to the second rotatable shaft, wherein the collar comprises a
non-contiguous ring, defining an angular gap; and

at least one securing member capable of operably engaging the collar so as to secure the
collar to the second rotatable shaft, the securing member comprising a fastening device capable
of operably engaging the collar, across the gap, so as to reduce the gap and provide a friction
engagement between the collar and the second rotatable shaft.

2. – 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim [[3]], wherein the securing
member comprises a fastening device configured to be capable of extending radially through the
collar so as to provide a fixed engagement between the collar and the second rotatable shaft.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and
second cutting blades is substantially circular in profile.

7. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second cutting blades is non-circular in profile.

8. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim [[2]]1, wherein the collar further comprises an axially-extending keyway and a threaded radially-outward surface, and the device further includes a key configured to be operably engaged between the collar keyway and the second rotatable shaft so as to rotationally fix the collar with respect to the second rotatable shaft.

9. (Original) A device according to Claim 8, wherein the radially-outward surface of the collar is configured to extend through the second cutting blade.

10. (Original) A device according to Claim 8, further comprising:
a first sleeve having the collar extending therethrough and configured to engage the threaded radially-outward surface of the collar; a pin operably engaged with the first sleeve and extending axially therefrom;
an axial aperture defined by the second cutting blade and configured to receive the pin so as to rotationally fix the second cutting blade with respect to the first sleeve;
a second sleeve having the collar extending therethrough, the second sleeve being arranged opposite the second cutting blade from the first sleeve and being capable of cooperating with the first sleeve to rotationally fix the second cutting blade with respect to the collar.